

Construction of a dam on Brahmaputra by China

1468. SHRI DWIJENDRA NATH SHARMAH:

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Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have analysed the recent media reports highlighting *inter-alia* that China is considering a plan to dam the Brahmaputra to divert 200 billion cubic metres of water every year to its North-Eastern region, through tunnels;

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto;

(c) what is the assessment of the extent to which this diversion is likely to impact the lower riparian countries like India and Bangladesh; and

(d) the steps taken, if any to express India's concerns to the Chinese authorities before the river diversion project affecting India becomes a reality and for present status of the negotiations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (d) The Government has noted that in response to a query, the Spokeperson of the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs conveyed to PTI on October, 25 2006 that "China has no such plans to build a dam and divert water from Yarlung Zagbo (Brahmaputra) to the Yellow River". Earlier, the spokesperson of the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs, in response to a report in an Indian newspaper about China building a barrage on the River Sutlej in Tibet had reportedly stated, *inter-alia*, that "Chinese Government has always adhered to the basic principle of fair and reasonable development and utilization of trans-boundary rivers. During this process of development and utilization, Chinese Government fully considers the impact on lower reaches".

Government has also raised the issue with the Chinese Government.